

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Rick Frazen on 9/2/08.

In claim 27, line 1, "23" has been deleted and --24-- has been inserted.

Claims 40-55 have been canceled without prejudice as being drawn to a non-elected group.

In claim 56, line 14, "such as" has been deleted and the following inserted --said connective tissue including--. In the next to last line "such as the ligamentum flavum," has been deleted.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to George R. Evanisko whose telephone number is 571 272 4945. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 6:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Angela Sykes can be reached on 571 272 4955. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3762

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/George R Evanisko/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3762

GRE  
9/2/08